



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**CORDROGUE 61
COEST 307**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of:	Meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs and the Russian Federation
on:	4 September 2012
Subject:	Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. CM 4027/12.

2. Developments of drug policy and drug situation

The Presidency informed the meeting about the preparation of the new EU Drugs Strategy to be adopted by the end of the year and the representative of the Commission gave an overview of the results of the assessment of the current EU Drugs Strategy and its Action plans. The representative of the EMCDDA presented the EU drugs situation, noting that the financial crisis influenced the drug users by leading them to a more risky administration of drugs. In reply to the Russian delegation about the role of the NGOs in drug prevention, the representatives of the EMCDDA and Commission explained that their role was central as in many EU Member States they were providing anti-drug related services and were also involved in policy processes, especially through the Civil Society Forum on Drugs.

The Russian delegation explained how anti-drug policies are implemented in Russia and reminded that their anti-drug strategy, consisting of three main pillars (drug supply reduction, drug demand reduction and development of international cooperation) was adopted in 2010. The speaker noted that after the first two years of implementation of the strategy the total level of drug addicts (especially for heroin), the level of mortality caused by drug consumption and the number of drug related crimes had decreased. As regards drug demand reduction, currently 85 % of patients go through detoxification and only 5 % through rehabilitation and the aim is that 85 % would be in rehabilitation and only 5 % in detoxification. The speaker informed the meeting that in 2011 more than 36 tons of drugs were seized, 72 % of them marihuana, 11,8 % poppy straw, 7,6 % hashish and hashish oil and 5,6 % heroin. The representative of the Ministry of Interior added that a reform, including adoption of an efficient legal basis, was being conducted to improve the fight against drug trafficking and informed the delegates about different projects undertaken.

3. Successful policies to reduce drugs demand problems

The Russian delegation explained that general prevention was applied in Russia and gave an overview of different successful initiatives aimed at reducing drug demand. An Internet lesson was developed to inform youth about the negative social and medical consequences of drug use and about the advantages of a healthy life style, in which more than 3,5 million students were involved. Another initiative concerned teachers and was aimed at guiding them on how to speak about drugs with children. A special initiative was dedicated to those serving in military forces which resulted in a reduction of people dismissed from the army because of drug use. The initiative "Tell where death is sold" was aimed at encouraging people knowing where drugs are sold to disclose this information. Finally, inspections were conducted in places where young people go and where drugs can be sold. Besides that, various initiatives have been undertaken to propagate sports, as it is proved that those involved in sports are much less exposed to drugs.

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the EQUUS project, noting that improving the quality of anti-drug related services was one of their priorities and informed the meeting about the evaluation of the Council Recommendation on the prevention and reduction of health-related harm associated with drug dependence, seeking to estimate how Member States were implementing harm reduction policies and what types of services were provided.

The evaluation is still ongoing, but the result is positive. She also mentioned that one of the problems was that in the EU cannabis users were still treated together with other, more serious drug users and that improvement was needed in drug related services in prison settings as inmates were exposed to higher drug related risks upon release from prison.

The Russian delegation suggested to continue discussion on this topic at the next meeting and expressed their interest in exchanging statistics on different approaches and on new methods of drug treatment. The representative of the EMCDDA informed the meeting that they intended to measure the effect between the efforts spent and the results obtained and noted that it would be interesting to have a discussion on that.

4. Synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances

The Presidency informed the meeting that the EMCDDA and Europol had produced a Joint Report on a new psychoactive substance: 4-methylamphetamine and that a majority of Member States and the Commission requested for a Risk Assessment to be conducted.

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting that they would propose a new legislation on new psychoactive substances in early 2013 and the representative of the EMCDDA gave an overview of the situation with new psychoactive substances in the EU and measures taken to fight against them. He noted that not only the number of new psychoactive substances, but also the reporting capabilities were increasing.

The PL delegation presented the EMPACT synthetic drugs project, aiming to improve cooperation with the private sector, further develop the profiling of synthetic drugs and introduce coordinated approach to training, and noted that most of actions had been started. The speaker emphasised that although the formal participation in the EMPACT project was limited to EU Member States, Poland as the driver of the project was keen on sharing with the Russian counterparts the initial findings of the project and looking for possible areas of cooperation with regard to the implementation of this project.

The Russian delegation informed the meeting about the situation with dry and liquid amphetamine, saying that over time it had become more popular in Russia. He also mentioned that as from 2007 the number of clandestine laboratories had also been increasing and as a rule they were located close to big cities like Moscow and St Petersburg. The speaker noted that training held in Poland helped them to identify such clandestine laboratories and that most seizures had become possible through efficient cooperation with the Baltic States, especially with Lithuania.

As concerns the new psychoactive substances, the delegate noted that thanks to the activities of the Federal Drug Control Service, Russian legislation allowed to react more promptly to them. However, one of the issues was that many internet sites selling these substances were placed on servers in the EU Member States.

5. Afghanistan and Central Asia

The Russian delegation informed the meeting about their national anti-drug initiatives aimed to stop drug trafficking in the region and international initiatives in which they participated and noted that it became even a greater challenge with the creation of the customs union among Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. The speaker gave an overview of the recent Kanal operations and summarised that through the implementation of this programme in 2003-2011, 250 tons of drugs were seized, including 4 tons of synthetic drugs and 11 tons of cocaine. The delegates were informed that during the last summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation the Russian President proposed creating a special centre to deal with different challenges including counterterrorism, drugs and organised crime and that currently this idea was being discussed among partners. The speaker hoped that this new body would become an efficient regional mechanism and expressed interest in its cooperation with the EU.

The representatives of the EEAS and Commission gave an overview of the EU activities in the region, reminding about the existing border management programme BOMCA, the drug demand reduction programme CADAP and the Heroin route programme aimed at fighting drug supply, the new phase of which would focus more on the Black Sea region and would provide support for regional structures such as CARICC and would have a budget of 6 million euro. The representative of the Commission noted that one problem which was overlooked in the past was precursor trafficking in the region and emphasised that in the future there was a need to deal with money laundering.

The Russian delegation agreed with that, saying that stopping the flow of precursors to Afghanistan would allow to stop the production of heroin.

Both delegations shared the view that only a comprehensive approach towards security, encompassing security and development, would improve the situation in the region and agreed on a need to coordinate the efforts in the region so as to avoid duplication.

6. EU-Russia drug precursors agreement

The representative of the Commission emphasised that they were interested in finalising the negotiations on the above-mentioned agreement in order to strengthen cooperation with Russia. The Russian delegation also reiterated their interest in finalising the agreement.

7. Any other business

No items were discussed under AOB.
